

# Notice of Allowability

## Application No.

09/878,962

## Examiner

LECHI TRUONG

## Applicant(s)

BERGS ET AL.

## Art Unit

2194

### - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 03/25/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-21, 24-29, 32-43 now renumbered as claims 1-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

### THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 08/28/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Meng-Ai An/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

**Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Esther H. Chong ( Registration No: 40,953) on 06/05/2008.
3. Amend the following claim:
  1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing information with a system provided with a plurality of processing devices coupled to a network, the method comprising:  
receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;  
automatically checking whether all processing devices belonging to a predetermined set selected from the plurality of processing devices are suitable for performing the job;  
presenting an indication for each processing device of the set, to the user via presentation means, of whether the same is suitable for performing the job;  
if a processing device among the processing devices belonging to the set is not suitable for performing the job, then a reason for this is indicated via the presentation means;  
after that, selecting a processing device out of all processing devices belonging to the set, wherein the processing device not suitable for the job is selectable to become the selected processing device; and

transmitting at least a part of the job to the selected processing device, wherein the step of selecting includes selecting the processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion selected from the group comprising processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a personal preference of the user.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of processing devices are printing devices.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the indication of the reason that the processing device is not suitable for performing the job is made in response to said processing device having been selected by the user.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a part of the defined job is presented to the user.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job comprises a setting of the job.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job is presented to the user simultaneously with said indication the processing devices of the set via the presentation means.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selected processing device is indicated on the presentation means
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein after a confirmation of the selection of the processing device, the job is passed to the selected processing device.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the confirmation of the selection is received from the user of the system.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a prediction as to what will be the selected processing device is predicted by the system on the basis of a predetermined criterion, after which the a change from the predicted selection can be received from the user.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a processing property of the processing device.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a distance between the user and the processing device.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is availability of the processing device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is processing cost.
16. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a previously indicated personal preference of the user.
17. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising indicating via the presentation means separately whether at least one processing device belonging to the set is suitable for performing the job.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing information with a system comprising one processing device and presentation means, the method comprising:
  - receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;
  - automatically checking whether the processing device is suitable for performing the job;
  - indicating, if the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, a reason why the processing device is not suitable for performing the job via the presentation means; and

after that, selecting the processing device, wherein the processing device not suitable for the job is selectable to become the selected processing device for performing the job, wherein

the step of selecting includes selecting the processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion selected from the group comprising processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a personal preference of the user.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the reason is indicated if the processing device is allocated by a user of the system.
20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the processing device is a printing device.
21. (Currently Amended) A system for processing information, the system comprising:
  - a network to which are coupled the following;
  - a plurality of processing devices;
  - defining means for defining a job for processing information;
  - research means for checking whether all processing devices belonging to a predetermined set selected from the plurality of processing devices are suitable for performing the defined job;

presentation means for presenting an indication, for each processing device of the set, of whether the same is suitable for performing the defined job, and if a processing device among the processing devices belonging to the set is not suitable for performing the job, indicating why said processing device is not suitable; and  
selection means for selecting a processing device out of all processing devices belonging to the set based on the indication, wherein the processing device not suitable for the job is selectable to become the selected processing device, wherein the selection means are adapted to select the processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion selected from the group comprising processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a personal preference of the user.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 21, further comprising first indicating means to indicate, in the event that the research means has determined that a displayed processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing device is not suitable for performing the job.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) The system according to claim 22, further comprising allocating means for allocating a processing device, said allocating means being connected to the display

means in such manner that in response to the allocation of the processing device the indicating means indicate why this processing device is not suitable.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 24, wherein the allocation means are controllable by a user of the system.
26. (Original) The system according to claim 21, further comprising means for displaying a part of the job.
27. (Original) The system according to claim 26, wherein said part comprises a setting of the job.
28. (Original) The system according to claim 26, wherein the means for displaying a part of the job is connected to the presentation means for presenting the said part to the user via the said presentation means.
29. (Original) The system according to claim 26, wherein the presentation means is adapted to present [[the]] said part of the job and the set of processing devices simultaneously.
- 30-31 (Cancelled)



32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, further comprising means with which a user of the system can change the selection.
33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, further comprising confirmation means connected to transmission means so that after confirmation of the selection of the processing device the job is transmitted to said selected processing device.
34. (Original) The system according to claim 21, further comprising second indicating means to indicate whether at least one processing device belonging to the set is suitable for performing the job.
35. (Currently Amended) A system for processing information, the system comprising:
  - a processing device;
  - defining means for defining a job for processing information;
  - research means for checking whether the processing device is suitable for performing the defined job; and
  - indicating means to indicate a reason, in the event that the research means shows that the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing device is not suitable for performing the job, wherein the processing device not suitable for the job is selectable to become a selected processing device for performing the job, wherein

the research means are adapted to check the processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion selected from the group comprising processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a personal preference of the user.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, further comprising allocation means for allocating the processing device in such manner that the indicating means indicates why the processing device is not suitable if the same has been allocated by the allocation means.
37. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein the processing device is a printing device.
38. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer program element storing computer program code for causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 1.
39. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer program element storing computer program code for causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 18.
40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the processing device not suitable for performing the defined job becomes selectable by the user to perform the defined job, after the indicating step.

41. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein the processing device not suitable for performing the defined job becomes selectable by a user to perform the defined job, after the presentation means indicates why said processing device is not suitable for performing the defined job.
42. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, wherein the processing device not suitable for the defined job becomes selectable by a user to perform the defined job, after the indicating means indicates why said processing device is not suitable for performing the defined job.
43. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the plurality of processing devices is an inkjet printer.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LeChi Truong whose telephone number is ( 571) 272 3767. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2195

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIP. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIP system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197(toll-free).

LeChi Truong

July 10, 2008

/Meng-Ai An/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195